

Appl. Ser. No. 10/666,387

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: BRANDON	Examiner: KOVACS, A
Serial No.: 10/666,387	Group Art Unit: 3637
Filed: Sept. 18, 2003	Docket No.: 28396-6
For: ADJUSTABLE SPINDLE ASSEMBLY FOR A GRASS TRIMMER	

DECLARATION

I, Dennis Brandon, hereby declare that

1. I am the inventor of the subject matter of the above-identified patent application and are familiar with the contents of the above divisional application, which was filed through our attorneys on September 18, 2003. This application is a divisional application of application Serial No. 09/795,645, filed February 28, 2001, and claims priority to that date.

2 I have reviewed and understand the contents referred to in this declaration, and have personal knowledge thereof.

3. I completed and had possession of the invention as disclosed in the above-identified patent application, having conceived and had made drawings thereof in this country prior to January 25, 2001, the filing date of Scott, et al (U.S. Pat. App. No. US 2002/0157368 A1).

4. Prior to January 25, 2001, during development of my invention, I prepared drawings myself, and had drawings prepared by FHP McRae Engineering under a

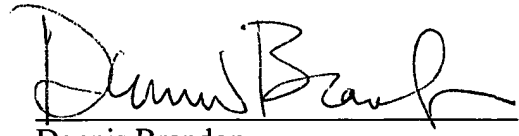
confidentiality/nondisclosure agreement, of a spindle assembly comprising a spindle housing; a spindle shaft rotatably coupled to the spindle housing; a mow ball rotatably connected to one end of the spindle shaft; a string carrier assembly connected to the spindle shaft intermediate the spindle housing and the mow ball; a string carrier plate with a string guide and a string holder, where the string-holder may be s-shaped; and a grooved spindle shaft. These drawings also show a string carrier assembly adjustably connected to the spindle shaft intermediate the spindle housing and the mow ball, including a mounting assembly and a string carrier plate, where the spindle shaft is grooved with a plurality of locking grooves, and the mounting assembly includes a locking slide positioned adjacent to the spindle shaft and a spring adapted to bias the locking slide into one of the locking grooves thereby fixing the mounting assembly in place with respect to the spindle shaft. These drawings of my invention are attached hereto as Exhibits A-E, and all pre-date January 25, 2001. I prepared the drawings contained in Exhibits A and B, and FHP McRae prepared for me the more formal drawings contained in Exhibits C-E. I am the owner and president of International Supply Company, the corporate entity identified in the "Confidential" stamp on the drawings.

5. Exhibit A is a drawing with a facsimile date of Sept. 23, 1999, showing a cutaway side view of the adjustable spindle assembly of my invention. It shows a mow ball with a wear point, a spindle shaft with grooves, a spindle housing, and a string carrier assembly intermediate the spindle housing and the mow ball, the string carrier assembly including a mounting assembly with a locking slide. Exhibit B shows the same spindle assembly (without a wear point) and its component parts, and also was prepared in September 1999. Exhibit C is a drawing with a

facsimile date of October 25, 1999, showing views of a spindle shaft with grooves. Exhibit D shows the adjustable spindle assembly of my invention with components identified, including a rotatable mow ball (172523), grooved spindle shaft (172520), spindle housing, pulley (169792), sliding locking plate (172519), string holders (173018), and spring. Exhibit E shows another embodiment of the spindle assembly with s-shaped string holders. Exhibits D and E were prepared in the fourth quarter of 1999 at about the same time as Exhibit C.

7. I hereby declare further that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements are and were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine imprisonment, or both under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

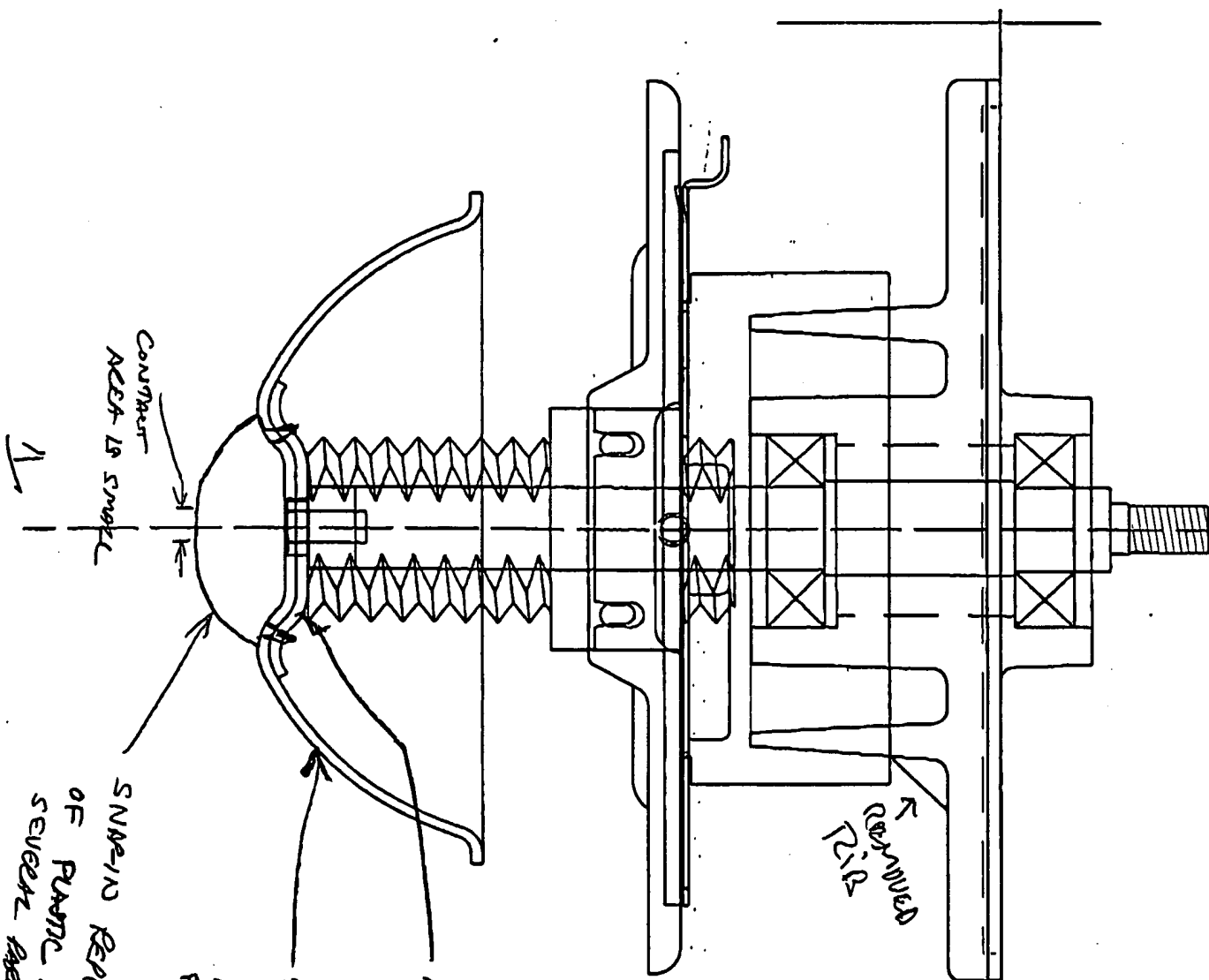
Date: 12/21/04


Dennis Brandon

Ex. A

DEM 15 BRADDER

Assembly



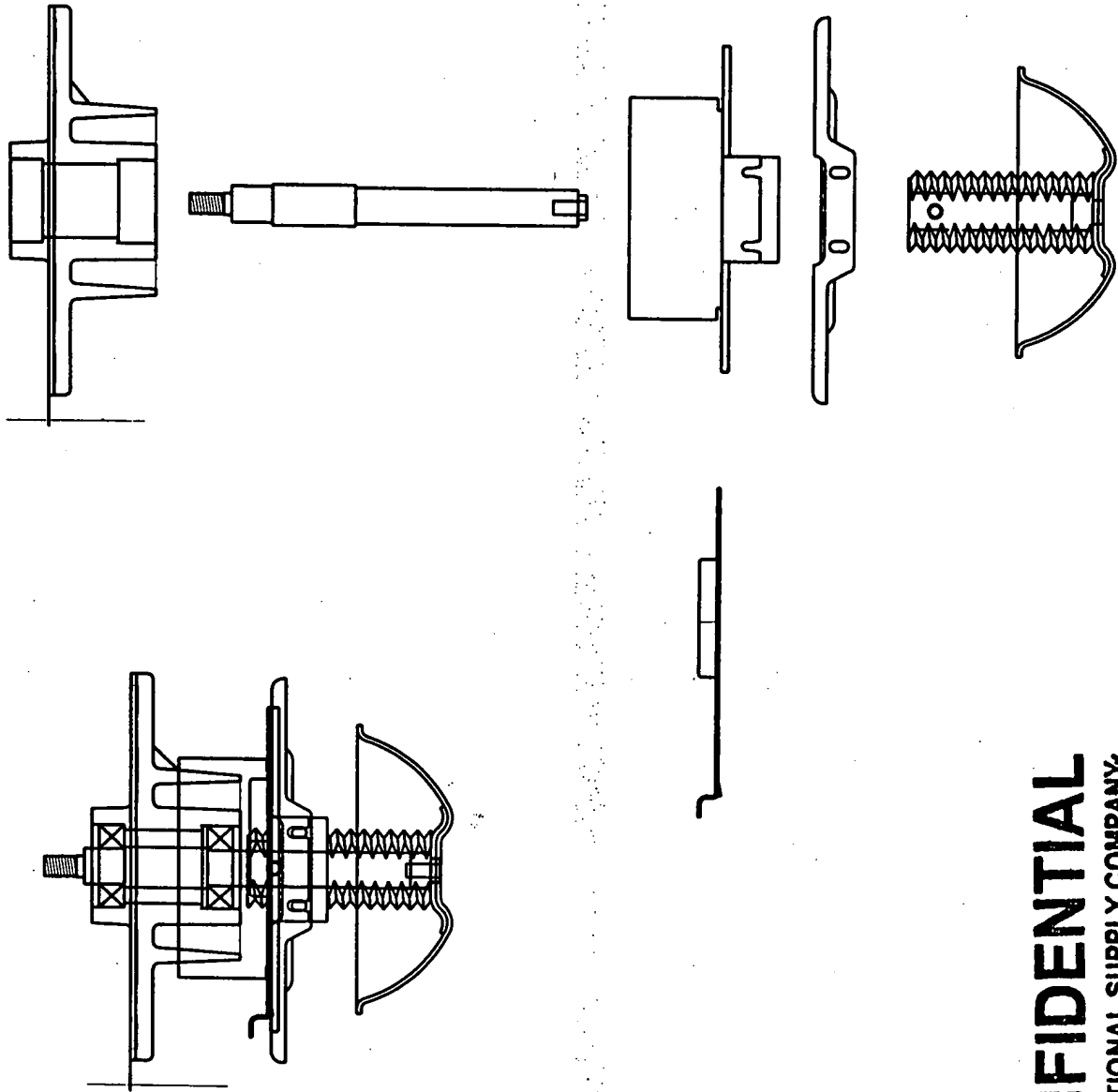
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FHP McRae**Fax**

To: Dennis Brandon	From: Doug Johnson
Fax: 615-824-7751	Pages: 2
Phone:	Date: 10/25/99
Re: Jackshaft	CC:
<input type="checkbox"/> Urgent <input type="checkbox"/> For Review <input type="checkbox"/> Please Comment <input type="checkbox"/> Please Reply <input type="checkbox"/> Please Recycle	

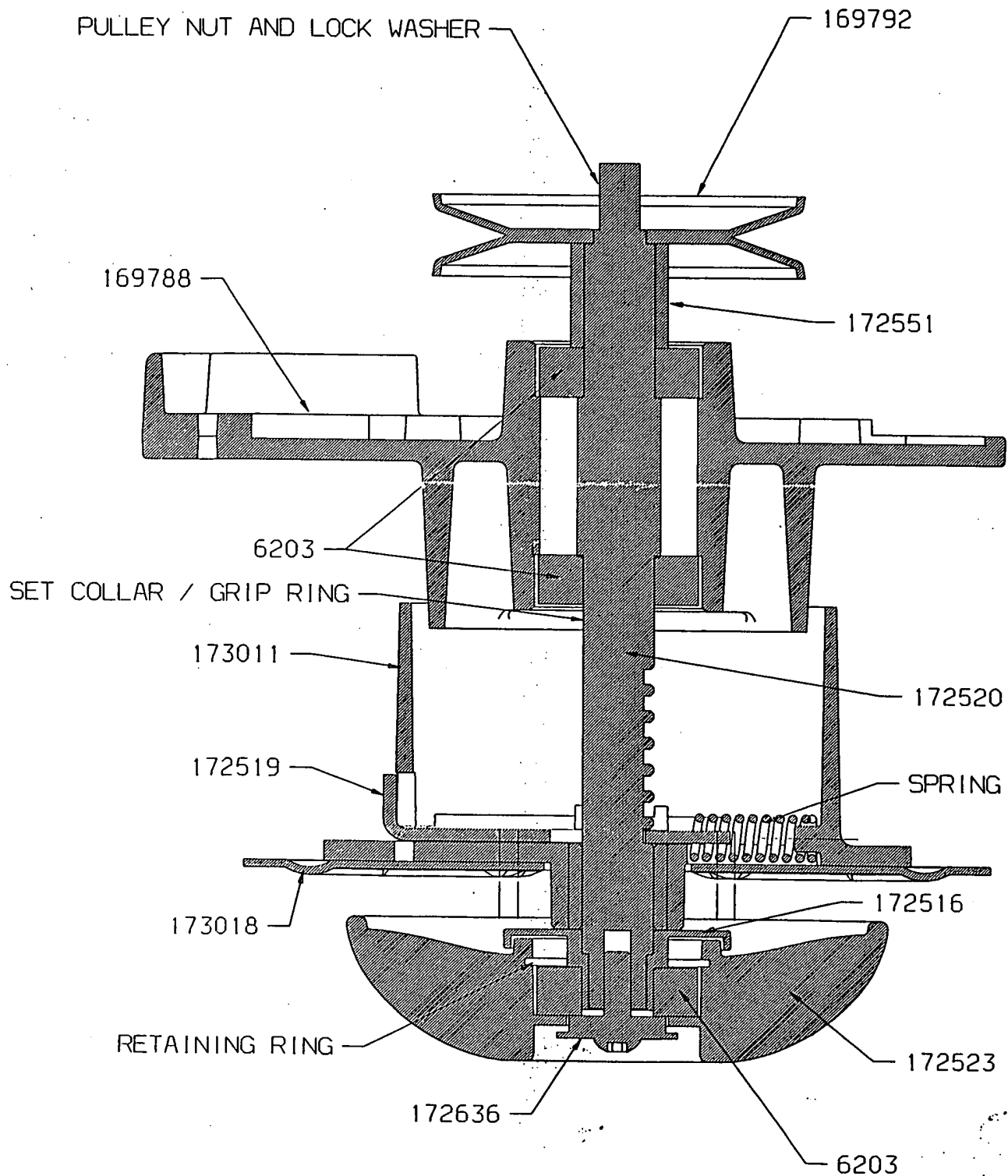
• Document:

Here is that alternate design of the jackshaft we discussed last week. I have also (finally) sent you copies of the prints for the components used in the primary design. These are PRELIMINARY prints and have no tolerancing on them, but should be enough for quotation purposes. You should have them tomorrow morning. Please review this shaft print and we can talk about it tomorrow.

Thanks,
Doug

172342

ADJUSTABLE SPINDLE ASSEMBLY



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EX-D

OPP SPINDLE ASSEMBLY

